

# Covid-19 Compliant Garden Gatherings

School and community gardens naturally lend themselves to outdoor experiential learning even under normal circumstances. However, during the Covid- 19 Pandemic, when youth in the U.S. have been confined to online learning, these garden spaces have the opportunity to provide a much needed reprieve from screen time learning. Additionally, as the CDC releases new information about the spread of Covid-19, we understand that learning outside is and will be the best way to ease our children safely back into a school environment without threat of spreading the virus. Many countries are exploring this model (read more [here](#) and [#5 on this list here](#)). This document provides instructions and resources on how Partridge Creek Farm will keep youth, garden educators, and community members safe while vital, hands-on learning, volunteering, and healthy food access continues.

The document below is broken down into the three main types gatherings that PCF will be interfacing and working with the community: farm-to-school classrooms/ workshops, community farmstands, and volunteer events. All types of gathers start with the foundational steps and then break off into separate instructions based on the different needs of the gathering type.

## Foundational Steps

Steps 1-5 are considered the “foundational steps” and apply to ALL types of gatherings; classrooms/ workshops, farm stands, and volunteer events that take place in the garden. These five steps should be completed with the upmost vigilance before proceeding to “gathering specific steps” listed below.

**Step 1: All persons leading or coordinating gatherings in the garden should check their temperature and *self monitor for Covid-19 symptoms*, if anyone has symptoms present or has had symptoms for any amount of time in the past 10 days, they should refrain from attending gathering. If no non-symptomatic leader or coordinator can be present, event will be cancelled.**

- Symptoms include fever, chills, headache, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body ache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
- Temperature should be taken at home before arrival to garden site, additionally all garden leaders should take their temperature and record them on the Daily Log (see appendix 1) using a contactless [thermometer](#).

**Step 2: Hand sanitizer or portable hand washing station must be setup and present throughout the entirety of the gathering and a system for keeping it maintained throughout the gathering must safely be put into place.**

- Instructions for proper hand sanitization should be vocally given to all participants upon arrival to the garden. All participants are required to sanitize their hands upon arrival to the gathering either with 70%+ alcohol containing sanitizer OR with a portable hand washing station that include antibacterial soap.
- See Appendix 2 for example of a portable hand washing station. Station is required to be prepared with hot water and checked periodically throughout the event to ensure water for washing is always available. Participants should wash both sides of their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Sanitization should be continued throughout course of gathering based on need.

**Step 3: Set the “Norm” at the beginning of each gathering**

- At the beginning of each gather, please read the opening “safety paragraph” in appendix 3
- If any of the questions in the “safety paragraph” are answered with a “yes” please kindly ask that the participant to leave so the safety of others can be intact.

- Ensure a taped “6 ft” reference is on the sidewalk or another flat, hard surface so all participants can visualize what it looks like during the reading of the “safety paragraph”.
- Take temperature of each participant using a contactless thermometer. Any person with a temperature over 99 degrees (youth and/ or adult) cannot participate and should return home immediately for self quarantine. This includes a parent who has accompanied their child to the gathering.
- Ensure all persons have facemasks. If social distancing can easily be maintained then participants do not have to wear masks outside. However, if the distance 6 feet cannot be maintained due to proximity of work or activities then masks must be worn at all times throughout the gathering.

**Step 4: Sanitize all equipment between each use; have all gardeners bring their own gloves and tools if possible**

- Encourage participants to bring their own tools and gloves in pre-gathering communication. If they do not have gloves or tools, these will be provided.
- Ahead of and after all garden gatherings tools are required to be wiped down with bleach solution or sanitizer wipes that kill 99.9% of bacteria.
- Dispose of bleach solution properly (down a drain) or wipes appropriately at the end of the gathering.
- Gloves should be collected in a trash bag and washed in hot water immediately after the event. If gloves cannot be washed they should be disposed of immediately.
- Have a bucket available at the end of the event where all participants can put their used tools to be sanitized before the next usages.

**Step 5: Complete “Covid Compliant Garden Gathering Daily Log” in its entirety before commencing the gathering. Log needs to be filed at the Partridge Creek Farm office for our records.**

- The CCGG Daily Log in Appendix 1 needs to be completed in its entirety and all participants needs initial the log.
- The writing utensil used for initially the log *must* be sanitized between each new persons use with anti-bacterial wipes or bleach solution.

### Gathering Specific Steps

After proper assurance that Steps 1-5 above are put into place, complete the remaining steps based on the type of gathering that is happening in the garden:

**Classrooms and workshops**

- Classrooms and workshops should adhere to a ratio of *no more than 9* participants per garden leader.
- If the garden space is large enough to accommodate more participants while adhering to 6-foot social distancing, then up to 18 participants with 2 garden leaders is okay.
- Garden leaders should break into small groups

**Volunteer events and other community gatherings**

- Volunteer events should adhere to a ration of *no more than 10* participants per garden leader.
- If garden space is large enough to accommodate more participants while adhering to 6-foot social distancing, then up to 50 participants with 5 garden leaders is okay.
- Garden leaders should break into small groups

**Farm stands/ food give-away**

- All PCF staff must harvest, wash, and pack food into bags wearing gloves and masks
- A minimum 10 X’s must be placed on ground at the Farm Stand table so customers can form a “social distanced” line
- No sampling or “perusing” all produce will be pre-bagged and packed for customer to pickup
- Masks required at all times

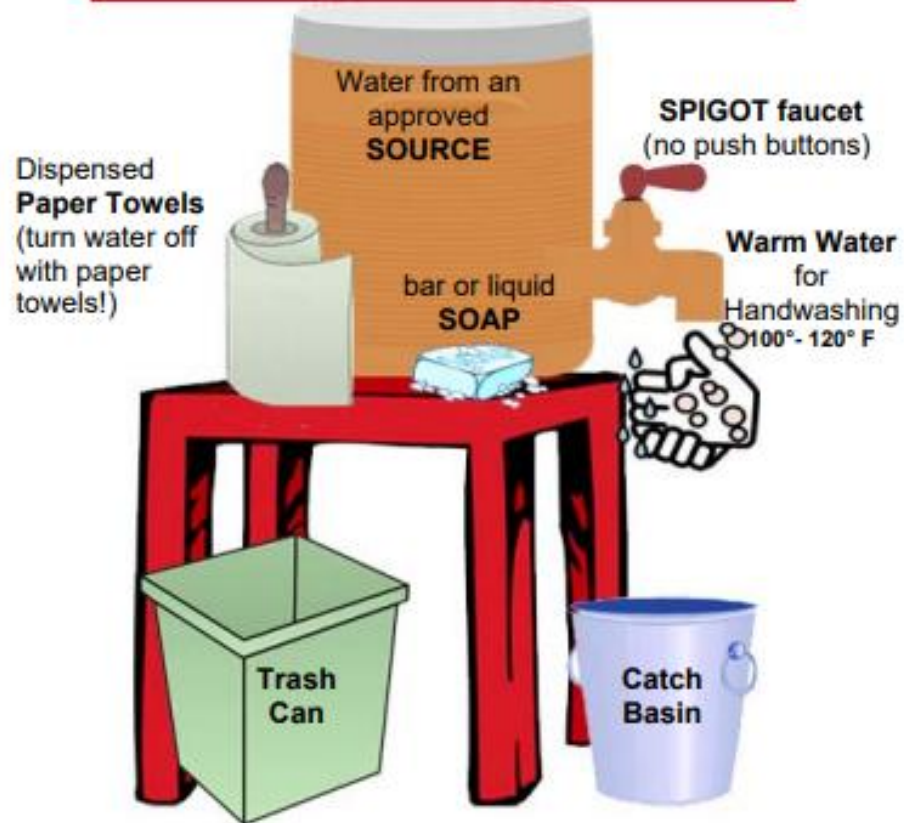


## HANDWASHING STATION

*Use it OFTEN!*

Use **CLEAN** water jugs:

1. **SANITIZE** with 2 tbsp unscented bleach in 1 gallon of water – **SLOSH** to cover all surfaces.
2. Let **STAND** 5 minutes and **DRAIN**. **DO NOT RINSE!**
3. **FILL** with approved drinking water



*Appendix 3: Gather Introduction Safety Paragraph*

This document is ***required to be read out loud, to the entire group at the beginning*** of every Partridge Creek Farm Garden Gathering.

Thank you all so much for being here in the garden with us today. We are thrilled that we are able to be here together and want to ensure that this can continue to happen. Partridge Creek Farm is committed to upholding proper parameters to keep everyone safe and healthy so that our work together can continue to flourish.

To start, if you have been in contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with or has displayed symptoms of Covid-19 OR have displayed symptoms yourself in the past 14 days, please refrain from participating today. Symptoms include fever, chills, headache, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body ache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

During this gathering, if proper 6 feet social distancing cannot be maintained at all times, the group will be required to wear masks. Please see our example of “6 feet apart” right here (point group to example taped on ground as outlined in step 3 of “Foundational Steps” above). Before we begin, each participant and leader must sanitize their hands. If you are washing your hands in a sink or at our portable hand wash station, please use a generous amount of antibacterial soap and wash your hands on both sides for a minimum of 20 seconds—about the amount of time it takes to sing “Happy Birthday”. You can also use our 70% alcohol sanitizer. If, at anytime, you cough, sneeze or touch something that is possibly contaminated, please re-wash or re-sanitize your hands.

Additionally, for everyone has brought their own tools and equipment: thank you. For those of you who are borrowing tools please make sure to put them in our “Used Tool” bucket after you’re done using them for the day. Please DO NOT share tools under any circumstance.

At this time, myself or one of our other garden leaders will ask each of you a series of questions AND will take your temperature using a contactless method. If your temperature is over 99.5 degrees, we thank you so much for coming today, but must ask you to leave immediately to ensure the safety of all other participants. Please return for our next event though, as soon as your temperature and symptoms subside.

We are so excited to be with you today and look forward to many more gatherings together. Thank you SO much for your kindness, understanding, and commitment to moving the mission of Partridge Creek Farm forward in a safe and Covid-19 complaint way. Now, Let’s Get Growing!!

References:

[https://foodprint.org/blog/support-sustainable-food-](https://foodprint.org/blog/support-sustainable-food-systems/?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sustainable_food_systems)

[systems/?utm\\_source=mailchimp&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=sustainable food systems](https://foodprint.org/blog/support-sustainable-food-systems/?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sustainable_food_systems)

<https://vtfeed.org/sites/default/files/imce/uploads/Gardening%20COVID-Infographic-PrintQuality3.pdf>

<https://sustainontario.com/2020/04/15/covid-19-updates-recommendations-for-community-gardens/>

<http://www.farmtoschool.org/covid19>

<http://illinoisfarmtoschool.org/illinois-farm-to-school-network-covid-19-general-resources/>

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-issues-temporary-policy-fsma-onsite-audit-requirements>

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-rules-guidance-industry#guidance>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/10/scotland-eyes-outdoor-learning-as-model-for-reopening-of-schools>

<https://foodcorps.org/essential/>

<https://slowfoodusa.org/safety-protocols-for-farmers-markets-during-covid-19/>

Resources for ideas and lessons (educators and families):

<https://foodcorps.org/covid19/>

<https://slowfoodusa.org/slow-food-live/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1N\\_aT8Rm4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1N_aT8Rm4&feature=youtu.be)

<https://edibleschoolyard.org/edible-education-home-classroom>

<https://www.citysprouts.org/citysprouts-at-home>

<https://backpocketlearning.org/about/>